(i) A large number of officers/officials who were found responsible for acceptance of BRL/beyond PFA limit stocks were either placed under suspension or transferred out of region or banned for acceptance of rice besides regular disciplinary action against them, by FCI.

(ii) Some procedural changes have also been made by the FCI during the KMS 2005-06 and teams for Regional Office/District Office constituted for collection/drawal of samples of rice stocks being accepted for analysis in the concerned Labs and immediate action is taken on detection of BRL stocks.

(iii) Notorious Centers and millers have been identified and Area Managers/Assistant General Managers (QC) have been instructed by FCI to keep a strict vigil on them in order to ensure that no sub standard rice is delivered by unscrupulous millers in connivance with the staff/officers of the FCI.

(iv) The inspection reports of concerned officers of FCI relating to procurement of rice are being closely monitored in the Regional/ Zonal offices.

(v) Frequent checking of procurement centers including rice procurement by various squads including vigilance squads and joint teams of officers of FCI and the Ministry have been ensured.

(vi) As a result of above steps, no destination quality complaint against stocks of rice procured/dispatch ex Punjab region, during the month of October, November and December, 2005 during KMS 2005-06 have been received.

Reduction in food subsidy

†36. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme to gradually reduce the food subsidy to eliminate it completely;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, by when it is going to be abolished;

(c) whether it is also a fact that countries such as America, Canada, etc. have not taken any decision in this regard, so far; and

(d) whether in the first phase, so far, it has been decided to raise the prices of foodgrains and reducing the per unit availability under the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Developed countries such as United States, Canada and European Union continue to have large farm support schemes.

(d) Does not arise.

Cut in BPL quota

37. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce the quantity of wheat, rice, etc. to be given against ration cards to the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantum thereof and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that people living below poverty line would only be affected due to such reduction; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) With a view to rationalise the allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensure that the food subsidy remains targeted towards poor households, and keeping in view the reduced availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the Government took the following decisions on 6.1.2006: